

NEBRASKANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Nebraskans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Nebraska. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Nebraska.

INCOME: NEBRASKANS ARE BARELY EARNING MORE TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Nebraska was \$46,287.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Nebraska was \$46,587, an increase of 0.6 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN NEBRASKA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Nebraska had 150,000 adults without insurance (9.1 percent).³
- In 2005, Nebraska had 208,000 adults without insurance (11.8 percent).⁴
- Nebraska had 44,706 children benefit from the SCHIP program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN NEBRASKA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Nebraska was \$7,335.⁶ In 2005, it was \$10,704, a 46 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Nebraska was \$16,381.⁸ In 2005, it was \$19,725, a 20 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Nebraskans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 25,509¹⁰
- Number of Nebraskans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 21,379¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR NEBRASKA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Nebraska was \$1.458 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Nebraska is \$2.286 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Nebraska was \$2,046.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Nebraska is \$3,208, \$1,162 (56.8 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: NEBRASKANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Nebraska – 290,580¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Nebraska – \$865¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: NEBRASKANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Nebraskans killed in Iraq – 29¹⁸
- Number of Nebraskans wounded in Iraq – 160¹⁹
- Number of Nebraskans killed in Afghanistan – 2²⁰
- Number of Nebraskans wounded in Afghanistan – 6²¹
- Number of Veterans in Nebraska – 159,487²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING NEBRASKA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 200 estates in Nebraska paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 57 estates in Nebraska will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 53,000 workers in Nebraska would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING DISAPPEARING

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 5,689,761²⁶
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 987,875²⁷

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST NEBRASKANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Nebraskans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Nebraska residents each received an average of \$2,135 in tax cuts, while middle class Nebraska residents received only \$373.²⁸
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Nebraska residents will receive an average of \$27,425 in tax cuts, while middle class Nebraska residents will only receive \$625.²⁹
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Nebraska residents will each receive an average of \$59,474 in tax cuts, while middle class Nebraska residents will only receive \$759.³⁰

The richest Nebraskans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Nebraskans received 5.0 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 17.6 percent of the tax cut.³¹
- But, in 2006, the richest Nebraskans will get 21.2 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 9.6 percent of the tax cut.³²
- And, in 2010, the richest Nebraskans will get 42.1 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 10.8 percent of the tax cut.³³

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Nebraskans.

- In 2010, the richest Nebraskans will receive an average of \$8,849 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Nebraskans will be getting over 44.5 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁴
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Nebraskans will receive an average of \$77 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 7.7 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁵

SOURCES

- 1: US Census Bureau
- 2: US Census Bureau
- 3: US Census Bureau, Health Insurance Coverage: 2001.
[\[http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin01/hi01tb2.html\]](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins/hlthin01/hi01tb2.html)
- 4: Bureau of Labor Statistics / Bureau of the Census Current Population Survey, 3/06.
[\[http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/health/h06_000.htm\]](http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032006/health/h06_000.htm)
- 5: Congressional Research Service, SCHIP: A Brief Overview. 9/21/06.
- 6: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 7: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 8: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2001"
- 9: National Center for Education Statistics, "Digest of Education Statistics 2005"
- 10: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 11: Based on 2003 IRS SOI data
- 12: Federal Highway Administration [<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/mmfr/jan01/mfr50101.htm>]
- 13: *Fuel Gauge Report*, 9/25/06
- 14: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 15: Figure Computed from information from Census Bureau State Fast Facts, EIA State petroleum profiles, FHWA Data, and 9/26/06 *Fuel Gauge Report*.
- 16: Social Security Online, *Geographic Statistics Fact Sheets*, 1/06.
[\[http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.htm\]](http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.htm)
- 17: Social Security Online, *Geographic Statistics Fact Sheets*, 1/06.
[\[http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.htm\]](http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/statefactsheets.htm)
- 18: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 19: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 20: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 21: [\[http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf\]](http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/STATE_OEF_OIF.pdf)
- 22: House Democratic Leader. [\[http://www.democraticleader.house.gov/NDResources/numvets.doc\]](http://www.democraticleader.house.gov/NDResources/numvets.doc)
- 23: Center for Budget Priorities, *Latest Data on Minimum Wage Workers and Taxable Estates, by State*, 8/4/06. [\[http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm\]](http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm)
- 24: United for a Fair Economy [\[www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html\]](http://www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html). This estimate is based upon current law where the estate tax threshold is slated to rise to 3.5 million in 2009.
- 25: Center for Budget Priorities, *Latest Data on Minimum Wage Workers and Taxable Estates, by State*, 8/4/06. [\[http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm\]](http://www.cbpp.org/8-2-06tax3.htm)

26: Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Sum of Awards made by State*, generated 9/27/06.

27: Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *Sum of Awards made by State*, generated 9/27/06.

28: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

29: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

30: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

31: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

32: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

33: Citizens for Tax Justice, 6/22/06. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

34: Citizens for Tax Justice, 11/18/05. Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

35: Citizens for Tax Justice, 11/18/05 Middle class is defined as the middle 20 percent of incomes.

[\[http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf\]](http://www.ctj.org/pdf/gwbdata.pdf)

